



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/633,624	08/05/2003	Takashi Kurumisawa	116485	5362
25944	7590	02/23/2006	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			BODDIE, WILLIAM	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2674	

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/633,624

Applicant(s)

KURUMISAWA ET AL.

Examiner

William Boddie

Art Unit

2674

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 January 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 January 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. In an amendment dated January 18th, 2006, the Applicant amended claims 1 and 4-9. Claim 3 was cancelled and claims 10 and 11 were added. Currently claims 1-2 and 4-11 are pending.

Specification

2. The title of the invention as been amended to sufficiently describe the invention. As such the previous objection to the title is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. Claim 9 has been amended to recite, "an image display program stored on a recordable medium" thus claiming statutory subject matter. As such the previous 35 USC § 101 rejection to claim 9 is withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-9 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-2, 4 and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greier et al. (US 6,801,220) in view of Amagami et al. (US 5,402,149) and further in view of Kim et al. (US 5,877,737).

With respect to claim 1, Greier discloses, an image display device, comprising: a display unit; a viewing angle range adjustment device that sets grayscale values of each pixel of image data so that the grayscale values of each pixel differs from an adjacent pixel in a vertical direction or in a horizontal direction of image data (for the purposes of claim analysis the terms 'grayscale values' and 'luminance' are considered linked, i.e. different grayscale values are akin to different luminance values [applicant uses the terms interchangeably para. 56-57]. col. 13, lines 11-32, also note the checkerboard pattern of luminance in fig. 20);

and a display device for displaying the image data on the display unit (112 in fig. 3).

Greier does not expressly disclose, a resolution conversion device that makes image data for a plurality of pixels from original image data for each pixel and generates resolution-converted image data including the image data of the plurality of made pixels.

Additionally Greier does not expressly disclose, what occurs in a case that a vertical observation direction to a surface of the display unit is a 0 degree observation direction., the viewing angle range adjustment device sets grayscale value of one of the pixel and the adjacent pixel based on display characteristics of a -30 degrees observation direction and sets grayscale value of the other one of the pixel and the adjacent pixel based on display characteristics of a +30 degrees observation direction.

Amagami discloses, a resolution conversion device that makes a plurality of pixels from each pixel of original image data and generates resolution-converted image

Art Unit: 2629

data including the plurality of made pixels (note fig. 46, which discloses a resolution conversion with new pixels being formed from the original data).

Kim discloses, in a case that a vertical observation direction to a surface of the display unit is a 0 degree observation direction., the viewing angle range adjustment device sets grayscale value of one of the pixel and the adjacent pixel based on display characteristics of a -30 degrees observation direction and sets grayscale value of the other one of the pixel and the adjacent pixel based on display characteristics of a +30 degrees observation direction (col. 2, lines 14-27, discloses selecting two sets of grayscale values based on producing a widened viewing angle characteristic. While Kim does not expressly disclose that a ± 30 viewing angle characteristic is specifically used in the case of a 0 degree observation direction, this viewing angle is seen as, included in the widened viewing angle disclosed by Kim, as well as an optimum range when selecting a max/min-viewing angle. This angle being optimum it would have been an obvious selection for use in Kim's display).

Amagami, Kim and Greier are all analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor namely, matrix displays and methods of displaying data.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to replace the driver of Greier with the resolution conversion driver of Amagami which would then pass the resolution converted data to the wider viewing angle means of Greier. Further obvious would have been, selecting the grayscale values, of Greier/Amagami as taught by Kim.

The motivation for doing so would have been to enable display of both low-resolution and high-resolution data on a high-resolution screen (Amagami, col. 1, lines 16-25), as well as to visually combine the viewing angles so they widen an overall viewing angle of the display (Kim, col. 2, lines 20-23).

Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Greier with Amagami and Kim for the benefit of effectively displaying low-res data on a high-res screen and widening viewing angles to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

With respect to claim 2, Greier, Kim and Amagami disclose, the image display device according to claim 1 (see above).

Greier further discloses, the viewing angle range adjustment device setting the different between grayscale values of the adjacent pixels in the vertical direction to be more than a predetermined grayscale value (col. 18, lines 55-58, discuss determining an ideal difference between grayscale values).

With respect to claim 4, Greier, Kim and Amagami disclose, the image display device according to claim 1 (see above).

Greier further discloses, the viewing angle range adjustment device comprising: a lookup table that stores the display characteristics of the display unit (col. 15, lines 12-14); and a device that determines the grayscale value of each pixel with reference to the lookup table (col. 15, lines 14-26).

With respect to claim 10, as claim 10 is simply a method version of claim 1 and offers no new limitations over claim 1, claim 10 is rejected on the same merits as recited above in the rejection of claim 1.

With respect to claim 11, as claim 11 is simply a computer program method version of claim 1 and offers no new limitations over claim 1, claim 11 is rejected on the same merits as recited above in the rejection of claim 1.

7. Claims 5-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greier et al. (US 6,801,220) in view of Amagami et al. (US 5,402,149).

With respect to claim 5, Greier discloses, an image display device, comprising: a display unit; a viewing angle range adjustment device that sets grayscale values of each pixel of image data so that the grayscale values of each pixel differs from an adjacent pixel in a vertical direction or in a horizontal direction of image data (for the purposes of claim analysis the terms 'grayscale values' and 'luminance' are considered linked, i.e. different grayscale values are akin to different luminance values [applicant uses the terms interchangeably para. 56-57]. col. 13, lines 11-32, also note the checkerboard pattern of luminance in fig. 20);

and a display device for displaying the image data on the display unit (112 in fig. 3);

wherein each pixel has sub pixels corresponding to a plurality of colors (fig. 20, one pixel comprises 3 subpixels R,G and B); and

the viewing angle range adjustment device adjusts a viewing angle range for each color of the plurality of colors by setting the grayscale value of one sub pixel of the sub pixels to a different grayscale value than the other sub pixels (note fig. 20 where one subpixel in every pixel has a different grayscale than the other subpixels).

Greier does not expressly disclose, a resolution conversion device that makes image data for a plurality of pixels from original image data for each pixel and generates resolution-converted image data including the image data of the plurality of made pixels.

Amagami discloses, a resolution conversion device that makes a plurality of pixels from each pixel of original image data and generates resolution-converted image data including the plurality of made pixels (note fig. 46, which discloses a resolution conversion with new pixels being formed from the original data).

Amagami and Greier are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor namely, matrix displays and methods of displaying data.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to replace the driver of Greier with the resolution conversion driver of Amagami which would then pass the resolution converted data to the wider viewing angle means of Greier.

The motivation for doing so would have been to enable display of both low-resolution and high-resolution data on a high-resolution screen (Amagami, col. 1, lines 16-25).

Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Greier with Amagami for the benefit of effectively displaying low-res data on a high-res screen to obtain the invention as specified in claim 5.

With respect to claim 6, Greier and Amagami disclose, the image display device according to claim 5 (see above).

Greier further discloses, each subpixel corresponding to each color of R,G and B (fig. 20); the viewing angle range adjustment device comprising: a lookup table that stores display characteristics of the display unit for each color of R, G, and B; and a device that determines the grayscale values of the sub pixels for each color with reference to the lookup table (col. 19, lines 37-40, which details operations based on stored RGB values).

With respect to claim 7, Greier discloses, an image display device, comprising: a display unit; a viewing angle range adjustment device that sets grayscale values of each pixel of image data so that the grayscale values of each pixel differs from an adjacent pixel in a vertical direction or in a horizontal direction of image data (for the purposes of claim analysis the terms 'grayscale values' and 'luminance' are considered linked, i.e. different grayscale values are akin to different luminance values [applicant uses the terms interchangeably para. 56-57]. col. 13, lines 11-32, also note the checkerboard pattern of luminance in fig. 20);

and a display device for displaying the image data on the display unit (112 in fig. 3);

wherein each pixel has sub pixels corresponding to a plurality of colors (fig. 20, one pixel comprises 3 subpixels R,G and B); and

the viewing angle range adjustment device adjusts a viewing angle range for each color of the plurality of colors by setting the grayscale value of one sub pixel of the sub pixels to a different grayscale value than the other sub pixels (not fig. 20 where one subpixel in every pixel has a different grayscale);

an input unit that receives a command to select one of a wide viewing angle range and a narrow viewing angle range, the display device displays the resolution-converted image data adjusted by the viewing angle range mode is selected and displays the resolution-converted mode image data not adjusted by the viewing angle range mode is selected (col. 10, lines 1-3, states the user is allowed to choose the viewing angle range).

Greier does not expressly disclose, a resolution conversion device that makes image data for a plurality of pixels from original image data for each pixel and generates resolution-converted image data including the image data of the plurality of made pixels.

Amagami discloses, a resolution conversion device that makes a plurality of pixels from each pixel of original image data and generates resolution-converted image data including the plurality of made pixels (note fig. 46, which discloses a resolution conversion with new pixels being formed from the original data).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to replace the driver of Greier with the resolution conversion driver of Amagami which would then pass the resolution converted data to the wider viewing angle means of Greier.

The motivation for doing so would have been to enable display of both low-resolution and high-resolution data on a high-resolution screen (Amagami, col. 1, lines 16-25).

Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Greier with Amagami for the benefit of effectively displaying low-res data on a high-res screen to obtain the invention as specified in claim 5.

With respect to claim 8, as claim 8 is simply a method claim and offers no new limitations over claim 5, claim 8 is rejected on the same merits as recited above in the rejection of claim 5.

With respect to claim 9, as claim 9 is simply a computer program method claim and offers no new limitations over claim 5, claim 9 is rejected on the same merits as recited above in the rejection of claim 5.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Will Boddie whose telephone number is (571) 272-0666. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:30 - 4:00 EST.

Art Unit: 2629

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amr Awad can be reached on (571) 272-7764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Wlb
1/27/06

AMR A. AWAD
PRIMARY EXAMINER
